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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC COOPERATION
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE
ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS AND
POLICIES AGREED UPON IN THE DECLARATION
ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION,
IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND RELATED AREAS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 22 July 1991 from the Permanent Representative
of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Guadalajara Declaration issued by the Heads of State and Government of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela on 19 July 1991 in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico, at the conclusion of the first Ibero-American Summit (see annex).

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I should be grateful if you would have this document distributed among the States members of the General Assembly, under items 78, 81, 82, 90, 129 and 139 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jorge MONTAÑO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Mexico
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Guadalajara Declaration

The Heads of State and Government of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela, meeting in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico, on 18 and 19 July 1991, have agreed to issue the following declaration:

1. It is with great pleasure that we have come together, for the first time in history, to consider jointly the major challenges facing our countries in a changing world. Accordingly, our aim is to have our Governments agree on their common political will to promote the solutions required by the challenges and to forge all the historical and cultural affinities that bind us into an instrument of unity and development based on dialogue, cooperation and solidarity.

2. We represent a vast body of nations sharing common roots and the rich heritage of a culture that is the product of different peoples, beliefs and races. Five hundred years after the first encounter between us, we are determined, as one of the great geographical areas that make up today's world, to project the strength of our community forward into the third millennium.

3. We realize that the convergence we are seeking cannot draw strength only from a common cultural tradition but depends also on our wealth of national origins and their pluralistic expression. Our community is founded on democracy, on respect for human rights and on fundamental freedoms. In this context, the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention are reaffirmed and recognition is given to each people's right to build freely, in peace, stability and justice, its political system and its institutions.

4. We consider a respectful approach to bridging our differences and the many voices with which our societies speak to be the foundations of a plan for Ibero-American cooperation relying on dialogue, solidarity and concerted action.

5. We declare our determination to unite in contributing to a common future that will bring peace, greater well-being and social equality. We are committed to the economic and social development of our peoples, to giving full sway to human rights, broadening democratic channels, fortifying our institutional systems and respecting the standards of international law.

6. We desire a future that holds certainty, peace and security for our peoples. That will be possible only if international law is respected and there is general and complete disarmament which discourages the use of force and favours a negotiated settlement of disputes. We reaffirm our support for the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. To counter the abuse of power, we invoke reason and dialogue.

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7. We reaffirm that any State subject to the rule of law has an obligation to promote and guarantee the full observance of human rights. Relying on our own efforts and on broad, non-selective and non-discriminatory international cooperation, we are determined to create an Ibero-American tradition of human rights that will foster behaviour conducive to respect, freedom and harmony in the political, legal, economic and social spheres.

8. We recognize the immense contribution the indigenous peoples have made to the development and pluralism of our societies and we reiterate our commitment to their economic and social well-being and our obligation to respect their rights and cultural identities.

9. We are committed to a process of radical restructuring of our economies as the efficient way to recovery and growth. Our countries have made significant advances in progressive modernization through governmental reform and economic liberalization. The process has involved sacrifices, which must now cease so that genuine social justice can be established. In our region there have been unprecedented developments leading to gradual regional and subregional economic integration, and they have made it possible for us to occupy a more favourable position on the international scene. Our initiatives will find support if an international environment prevails in which more resources are made available for development and the obstacles to trade are removed.

We declare our determined support for the processes of integration under way both regionally and subregionally and we propose to continue moving forward along that path. We reiterate that these attempts at integration are open to the rest of the world.

If the present situation persists, ideological bipolarity may give way to a division between the North, rich in capital and technology, and the South, poor and without prospects. To overcome the problem, it is necessary on the one hand to develop effective forms of reciprocity and solidarity and, on the other, to ground them in an ethical plan, guided by social justice and freedom and offering new patterns that will spur genuine cooperation among the countries of the world.

10. We shall make every effort necessary to free our peoples, before the twenty-first century, from the scourge of poverty. To do so, we shall ensure general access to basic services in the areas of health, nutrition, housing, education and social security, in keeping with the goals set by the United Nations under the International Development Strategy. By so doing, we shall help to strengthen democracy in our region.

11. We reaffirm that external indebtedness is one of the main obstacles to the growth and stability of the region and that, for many of our countries, it is thus a basic factor in economic development that has an obvious political dimension.

12. We recognize that the economic, social, technological and cultural development to which we aspire requires that education and culture be vigorously promoted; in giving us a stronger identity, this will afford us a solid basis for ensuring that our countries are properly included in an international arena marked by scientific and technological innovation.

It is necessary to bridge the technological gap by using basic technology to foster the rights to health, education, food and housing. The transfer of technology must be governed by social criteria and not solely by trade considerations.

13. Faced with world-wide ecological deterioration, intimately linked to the development models that have thus far prevailed, primarily in the industrialized countries, we call for action to renew multilateral cooperation. That will be the means of stopping the ecological deterioration and overcoming poverty. It is imperative, through this kind of international cooperation, to establish effective procedures for transferring more funds and appropriate technology to the developing countries on preferential, non-commercial terms, bearing in mind that the responsibility for a solution should fall basically to those who are doing the most damage. Among these procedures must be innovative ways of safeguarding the sovereign management of natural resources and promoting economic growth. In addition, groundwork must be done on a treaty establishing a comprehensive legal regime dealing with the inseparable aspects of development and the preservation of nature. The present inequality in the international economic system and its consequences for the large part of humanity living in poverty demand the establishment of a new order for a healthy and balanced environment.

14. We undertake to make the necessary efforts to achieve the objectives set by the World Summit for Children. To that end, we shall encourage the formulation of national programmes of action promoting the survival, protection and overall development of Ibero-American children.

15. An inadequate level of development has resulted in high rates of death and illness in our countries, particularly among the most vulnerable sectors of society. Aware of the high-risk conditions which have led to outbreaks of epidemics such as the cholera epidemic, the proportions of which have given rise to an emergency situation, we declare our intention to cooperate to overcome our shortcomings and to achieve better standards of health and living.

16. Confronted with drug-trafficking and its consequences, we affirm the principle of shared responsibility and reiterate our commitment to strengthen international cooperation to eliminate that scourge by adopting a comprehensive, multilateral approach based on full respect for the sovereignty of States.

17. In a world in which large, dynamic and competitive regional conglomerations are emerging, isolation and lack of communication result in poverty, marginalization and backwardness. We need to make greater collective efforts to reduce vulnerability and minimize the risks of isolation.

18. In the face of poverty, war, intolerance, famine, illness, environmental degradation and ignorance, we propose a new culture of international cooperation as the only path to a just and stable world. We understand this to mean genuine, concerted action which takes account of the common interests and objectives of the Ibero-American nations and which goes beyond mere give-and-take relations.

19. We therefore aspire to become full-fledged participants in world affairs. Taking our similarities and common interests as a starting-point, we have decided to take measures to overcome the challenges facing us and to unite our efforts to deal with the most pressing global issues.

20. We assume that our closer ties will be enriched by the diversity of events which are taking place, and will afford new opportunities for dialogue and understanding with all regions of the world. Hence, the strengthening of Ibero-American cooperation neither excludes nor replaces the regional and subregional integration and cooperation projects in which we are currently involved.

21. At the close of the twentieth century, international relations are being reorganized along new lines. However, the basic features of that reorganization have yet to be defined. We cannot wait passively for change, we must take action to shape it; we have genuine interests which must be reaffirmed and promoted.

22. Only an international community governed by law can ensure peace and security for all peoples. The United Nations will have an essential role to play in that area - a revitalized and renewed United Nations whose attainment of the goals for which it was created should be facilitated by the new international situation.

The strengthening of the bases of international coexistence and justice in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations is a responsibility which must be shared by all States; it is not the exclusive prerogative of a few. That process should be open to universal participation and should uphold the interests of the international community as a whole. We are resolved to make our contribution.

23. The interdependence of the challenges facing mankind compels us to unite our efforts to overcome them. The attainment of that objective will require strict adherence to the basic rules of international law, as well as to its progressive development in new areas as a result of the processes of integration and globalization.

24. We reaffirm the strength of our culture, which is being enriched by our participation in the processes of integration and globalization.

We, the Ibero-American Heads of State and Government, pledge to hold consultations in order to foster broader cooperation and to increase exchanges, which will enable us to promote common policies to ensure that we

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make the best use of our advantages as members of the same community. We have set ourselves the following objectives:

I. Observance of international law

(a) To conduct our foreign affairs in conformity with international law and to take concerted and coordinated action to contribute to the elimination of the use or threat of use of force.

(b) To promote resolutely negotiation as the means of settling regional conflicts and to support initiatives in the area of arms control, reduction and trafficking. To support the negotiations process in Central America with a view to establishing a just, stable and lasting peace; to that end, we pledge to refrain from any action or measure that might hinder the speedy settlement of conflicts, and we call upon all members of the international community to do the same.

(c) To promote the right to development and the establishment of fairer and more equitable international economic relations.

(c bis) To participate actively in the restructuring of multilateral forums, in particular the United Nations system, with a view to attaining a more just and democratic international order which will ensure peace and promote the well-being of peoples.

(d) To promote greater democracy and pluralism in international relations, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of States, as well as the sovereign equality and self-determination of peoples.

(e) To create an atmosphere conducive to the holding of consultations on the development and the codification of international law on the basis of consensus, focusing on those issues which, because of their global nature, are particularly urgent. Priority should be given to the following areas: strengthening of the mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes; the rules applicable to armed conflicts; promotion of conventional and nuclear disarmament, as well as disarmament in the field of weapons of mass destruction; promotion of human rights instruments; definition of the legal framework for environmental protection; prevention of drug trafficking; the law of the sea and of outer space; and the transfer of technology.

(f) To strengthen cooperation among Governments and non-governmental and multilateral organizations competent in the field of human rights, and to encourage full accession to both universal and regional international instruments for the promotion and protection of such rights.

(g) To undertake to create or strengthen in our respective countries national mechanisms for promoting, protecting and defending human rights, and to establish close cooperation among those mechanisms.

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II. Economic and social development

(h) To strengthen the multilateral system of international trade by promoting better communication and, where appropriate, cooperation among the various integration and cooperation projects in which the Ibero-American countries participate, both in America and Europe, in order to ensure an open world economy.

(i) To contribute to the success of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and to the full implementation of its rules and objectives, to efforts to eliminate protectionism, to the rejection of discrimination in international trade and to fair reciprocity for countries which are making unilateral and regional efforts to expand trade.

(j) To define realistic and pragmatic ways of reinstating the questions of economic development and international cooperation in the multilateral agenda.

(k) To strengthen national and international mechanisms so as to contribute appropriately to the definitive promotion of full enjoyment of rights and the integration of women in society on the basis of complete equality.

(l) To encourage meetings of economic agents in Ibero-America with a view to exchanging experiences and fostering greater ties between them, making use of mutual comparative advantages for trade, investment and technological development. To that end steps could be taken to encourage the establishment of an Ibero-American entrepreneurial organization.

(l bis) It is proposed that, with the support of international organizations, an Ibero-American fund be established for the development of indigenous peoples, so as to resolve favourably those peoples' pressing problems without any hint of "indigenous reservations" or paternalistic compensation.

(m) To support, on the proposal of the President of Mexico, the candidacy of Mr. Carlos Solchaga of Spain for the post of chairman of the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund.

(n) To ensure that measures for the control, reduction and elimination of weapons of mass destruction do not stand in the way of legitimate access to advanced technologies for peaceful uses, which are indispensable for the economic and social development of our peoples.

(o) To promote remedies for environmental deterioration based on full respect for the sovereignty of States over their natural resources and environmental policies, bearing in mind that a country's responsibility is proportionate with its contribution to such degradation. We draw particular attention to the need to prevent, by international means, the use and transfer of polluting technologies. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is a singular opportunity for expanding international cooperation for development and reversing the global process of environmental degradation.

(p) To promote short-term programmes of cooperation to combat drug trafficking in accordance with the international instruments now in effect, by exchanging information, controlling monetary assets from illicit sources and controlling the production and sale of chemical precursors.

(q) To ask the consumer countries to intensify their efforts to eradicate drug use.

(r) To request industrialized countries and international organizations to provide economic and financial support so that all States affected by drug trafficking may carry out crop substitution and alternative development programmes and also strengthen their judicial and administrative systems. One of the most effective ways of offsetting the socio-economic costs of that struggle is to open markets for the developing countries which undertake the above-mentioned programmes.

(s) To give attention to health issues, particularly to issues of preventive health. We wholeheartedly support the preparation of an emergency plan for the prevention and control of cholera in Ibero-America and for medium- and long-term investments designed to reduce deficiencies in respect of drinking water supply and proper treatment of waste water.

(t) To propose to international credit organizations the feasibility of assisting the countries in the region in their agricultural plans.

III. Education and culture

(u) To identify those areas of education which present comparative advantages in each country and from which benefits might be derived for the Ibero-American region, either for individual countries or for the region as a whole and, based on their priorities, to design specific cooperation programmes at the bilateral or multilateral level.

(v) To promote a common market of information as a forum for knowledge, the arts and culture, liberalizing the exchange of cultural, didactic and educational materials; facilitating the exchange and provision of scientific and technological equipment; and creating incentives for the communication and transmission of data. Similarly, our countries should allocate, within the limits of what they are able to do, funds for launching a technological development project designed to strengthen the capacity to generate innovations so as to strengthen industrial competitiveness and social efficiency.

(w) To encourage Ibero-American meetings of experts in the various areas of cultural thought and creation. To invite each country of the region to establish an Ibero-American library as a link for culture, the essence of our community.

(x) To intensify the ties between Ibero-American institutions of higher education.

(y) To expand cultural exchange and fellowship programmes.

(z) To promote the use of existing satellite communications systems in the region, thus helping to improve the ties between the countries of Ibero-America.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, we have decided to institute a dialogue among the countries of Ibero-America at the highest level. The heads of State and Government, meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, have decided to establish the Ibero-American Conference of Heads of State and Government consisting of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking sovereign States of America and Europe. To that end we shall meet initially in Spain next year, in Brazil in 1993, in Colombo in 1994 and in Argentina in 1995. These meetings will enable us to embark on a political, economic and cultural process which will help our countries together to achieve greater and more efficient integration in a changing global context. We call attention to the advantage of exchanging information on progress made towards the objectives of this Declaration prior to the next Summit.
